THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A view will be taken in the matter after due consideration.

Discrimination in Reimbursement of Medical Claims in Air India

2927. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India medical department has received any complaints regarding discrimination in reimbursement of medical claim for eye operations under contributory medical scheme; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation was received for reimbursement of medical expenses for Myopia Correction. The claim was rejected as the same was not admissible under the Contributory Medical Benefit Scheme and Employees Benefit Scheme.

Reimburesement of Medical Expenses Under Contributory Medical Scheme of Air India

2928. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the rules for reimbursement of medical expenses for Karectomy Eye operation under the Contributory Medical Scheme of Air India;

(b) the number of applications considered for above reimbursement and those rejected in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998; and

(c) the reasons for each rejections of above claim, if any?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Medical expenses for photo Refractive Keratectomy for Myopia correction (Correction of eye sight only) are neither reimbursable under the Contributory Medical Benefits Scheme (CMBS) nor Emlpoyes Medical Benefits Scheme (EMBS) in Air India.

(b) and (c) Details are as under:—

Year	No. of application received for reimbursement	Passed	Rejected
1996	2	1	1
1997	NIL	—	—
1998	NIL	—	—

The claim passed related to Keratectomy done alongwith Viteresectomy and Tridectomy for retinal detachment and was s admissible under CMBS. The rejected claim related to Keratectomy as it was not admissible under CMBS and EMBS.

Opening of Post Offices, STD/PCO and Fax Booths in Assam

2929. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Punchayats in Assam which have demanded for Opening of post offices STD/PCO and Fax booths during the last one year;

(b) the total number of post offices, STD/PCO, Fax etc. opened in Assam during this period; and

(c) whether steps are being taken by Government to open the new post offices in the State; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) *Postal*:

No demand has been received from Panchayat for opening of Post Office during last one year.